

Forward

Regional Director's Message



Kirk C. Rodgers
Regional Director

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In 2002, a momentous page turned in Reclamation's history. On June 17, Reclamation turned 100, and its motto, “A Century of Water for the West,” is a poignant reminder of the hard work thousands of our men and women have performed to achieve economic prosperity for the 17 Western states.

Shortly after President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act on June 17, 1902, Reclamation engineers fanned out across the arid West to find likely sites to begin building irrigation projects. Just 3 years later, on June 17, 1905, a congressional delegation led by Nevada Senator Francis G. Newlands, sponsor of the 1902 Reclamation Act (the MP Region's Newlands Project bears his name), dedicated Derby Diversion Dam in western Nevada. When the gates were opened, water flowed into the Truckee Canal and into a federally controlled Reclamation project for the very first time. History was made.

During the next half-century, huge irrigation projects were built that created agricultural and industrial profits, prosperity, and ensuing population growth. With these changes, approaches to managing water resources became more complex. Reclamation's activities expanded to incorporate many mandates reflected in laws such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968), National Environmental Policy Act (1969), Clean Water Act amendments to the Water Pollution Control Act (1972 and 1976), Endangered Species Act (1973), and Central Valley Project Improvement Act (1992).

As Reclamation begins its second century of service, its primary goal is to meet the increasing water and power demands of the West's burgeoning population and protect the environment and the American people's long-term investment in infrastructure. To accomplish this, we are working very hard to find ways to stretch limited water and power supplies, provide incentives for water conservation and water reuse, form and nurture partnerships with State and local entities, and consult with Indian tribes to provide for long-term sustainable use of water resources.

I hope you'll take the time to read this review of our achievements and activities that took place during 2002. The Mid-Pacific Region staff has worked hard to sustain our natural resources while meeting our mission goals.

Kirk C. Rodgers
Regional Director
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